

Fact Sheet

THE IMPORTANCE OF NIMS TO LOCAL CHIEF ELECTED & APPOINTED OFFICIALS: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) was issued by the Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2004, to provide a comprehensive and consistent national approach to all-hazard incident management at all jurisdictional levels and across all functional emergency management disciplines. The support of local chief elected and appointed officials in NIMS implementation nationwide is key to preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from any emergency or disaster.

NIMS compliance should be considered and undertaken as a community-wide effort. All emergencies and disasters are local events! The benefit of NIMS is most evident at the local level, when a community as a whole prepares for and provides an integrated response to an incident. Chief elected and appointed Officials at the local level should lead the charge of NIMS implementation!

Chief elected and appointed officials need to be involved in all aspects of NIMS implementation to include the following:

- Adopt NIMS at the community level for all government departments and agencies; as well as promote and encourage NIMS adoption by associations, utilities, non-government organizations, and the private sector. NIMS should be adopted through executive order, proclamation, resolution, or legislation as the jurisdiction's official all-hazards, incident response system.
- NIMS requires the use of the Incident Command System, the Multi-agency Coordination System and the Public Information System. All these command and management systems require the direct involvement of chief elected and appointed officials in a community during emergencies/disasters.
- NIMS requires all emergency plans and SOPs to incorporate NIMS components, principles and policies, to include emergency planning, training, response, exercises, equipment, evaluation, and corrective actions. Chief elected and appointed officials in a community need to be directly involved in these NIMS preparedness elements, especially the elements dealing with exercising community emergency management policies, plans, procedures and resources.

Jurisdictions will be required to meet the FY 2006 NIMS implementation requirements as a condition of receiving federal preparedness funding assistance in FY 2007. However, it is important to recognize that the NIMS is a dynamic system, and the doctrine as well as the implementation requirements will continue to evolve as our emergency management capabilities nationwide change based on the hazards and threats of the nation.

For more information about the NIMS consult the NIMS web site at <http://www.fema.gov/nims>. Local chief elected and appointed officials are urged to complete the IS-700 NIMS: An Introduction training course.

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